

VII. REMARKS

Examiner indicated on page 4, in item 5, that claims 2, 3, 4, and 9 would be allowed with the following limitations included:

- a) for claims 2 and 3, the insert comprises a pair of parallel cylindrical apertures,
- b) for claim 4, the inbound end of the housing includes a pair of parallel cylindrical apertures,
- c) for claim 9, the three tangs spaced 90 degrees apart covering 180 degrees and rest of the 180 degrees is open and defines a cable passageway,

in combination with the other limitations in the claim which is not found in the prior art reference of record.

Claim 1 has therefore been amended to include the limitation of "a pair of parallel openings" that was previously in Claims 2, 3, and 4. Claims 2-4 therefore have been amended to properly depend from Claim 1. Claims 5-8 have been cancelled.

It is believed that all the claims as amended in this Official Response are now in condition for allowance and such allowance is hereby requested.

IV. MARKED UP VERSION OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 1, line 3 of the specification as follows:

This application is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent Application entitled "Duplex Connector" filed February 23, 2001, application Serial Number 09/792,185 [and still pending] now U.S. Pat. No. 6,355,884 which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent Application entitled "Duplex Connector" filed August 13, 1999, application Serial Number 09/373,427 now U.S. Pat. No. 6,194,661.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 5, line 4 of the specification as follows:

Fig. 5 is an end view of spring steel retainer 20 or [24] 22 as viewed from forward edge 124 of the retainer shown in Fig. 4.

Please amend the paragraph that begins on page 7, line 19 of the specification as follows:

As shown in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the duplex connector 10 of the first two embodiments of the present invention comprises many of the same components as the duplex connector of U.S. Patent No. 6,194,661 including a housing 12 having a generally oval or race track-shaped inbound end 14 and a cylindrical outbound end 16, an inbound

end insert 18, spring steel cable retainers 20 and 22 that insert into a pair of parallel [inbound insert] apertures or openings 24 and 26 in the inbound end, spring steel adapter 28 about the outer diameter 17 of cylindrical outbound end 16 and retained by flanges 19 and 21, locking screw 30, a bushing 32 inserted into the inner circumference of outbound end 16 and a pair of peepholes 34 that permit viewing of the interior of housing 12 to determine the presence and/or location of cable inserted into housing 12 through insert apertures 24 and 26.

VIII. VERSION OF CLAIMS WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

(Note: text within [brackets] should be deleted, text underlined should be added)

- 1) (Twice Amended) A duplex electrical connector comprising:
 - a) a housing having a cylindrical outbound end, a generally oval inbound end, and an interior channel linking said inbound and said outbound end;
 - b) a pair of parallel openings in said inbound end;
 - c) [one or more]a tubular spring steel cable retainer[s] secured in each of said openings in said inbound end for accepting separate cables, [each of] said retainers including a set of inwardly extending tangs to receive and engage [an armored] said separate cables inserted from said inbound end and guide said separate cables toward said cylindrical outbound end in a manner that said separate cables are advanced to said outbound end, [without mutual interference,] said inwardly extending tangs restricting removal of said separate cables by force applied on said separate cables from said inbound end; and
 - d) a tubular spring steel adapter secured to said cylindrical outbound end of said housing, said adapter having outwardly extending tangs.

- 2) (Amended) The duplex electrical connector of claim 1 [wherein said retainers in said inbound end are secured by] including an insert [which is] secured within said inbound end [of said housing], said insert is generally oval in shape and [comprises a] includes said pair of parallel [cylindrical apertures] openings, said openings having an insertion end, a rearward end, and [generally cylindrical] interior walls with said retainers disposed in said [cylindrical apertures] openings, said [cylindrical] walls [of said parallel cylindrical apertures] each including a threaded hole and a screw disposed laterally therein so that tightening of said screws will secure said retainers in said [cylindrical apertures] openings.
- 3) (Amended) The duplex electrical connector of claim 1 [wherein said retainers in said inbound end are secured by] including an insert [which is] secured within said inbound end [of said housing], said insert is generally oval in shape and [comprises a] includes said pair of parallel [cylindrical apertures] openings having an insertion end, a rearward end, and [generally cylindrical] interior walls with said retainers disposed in said [cylindrical apertures] openings, said [cylindrical] walls [of said parallel cylindrical apertures] each including an annular ridge near said rearward end for securing said retainers in said [cylindrical apertures] openings.
- 4) (Amended) The duplex electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said [inbound end of said housing includes a] pair of parallel [cylindrical apertures] openings [with] include [generally cylindrical] interior walls,

said [cylindrical] walls including a plurality of tang accepting apertures, said retainers including a plurality of outward extending tangs that permit insertion of said retainers in a compressed state into said [cylindrical apertures] openings such that said tangs snap into said tang accepting apertures upon full insertion.

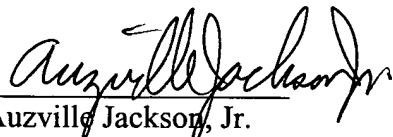
- 5) Cancelled.
- 6) Cancelled.
- 7) Cancelled.
- 8) Cancelled.
- 9) The duplex electrical connector of claim 1 wherein said inwardly extending tangs in each of said cable retainers consist of three tangs spaced approximately 90° apart such that said tangs cover approximately 180° of the opening through each of said retainers and the remaining 180° is essentially open and defines a cable passageway.
- 10) The duplex electrical connector of claim 9 wherein said generally oval inbound end contains two cable retainers centered along a central axis dissecting the oval lengthwise with the first of said retainers having said cable passageway oriented approximately 45° away from the center of said inbound end and the second of said retainers having said cable passageway oriented approximately 45° away from the center in the opposite direction of said first retainer.

IX. CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by Applicant or Applicant's undersigned representative is desirable and necessary, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

 9/17/02
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